

Serial No.: 09/819,266
Docket No.: JG-EPC-4955

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously amended): A compound comprising a portion for binding to a specific target cell and a cytotoxic portion, characterised in that the cytotoxic second portion is a constitutively active caspase, wherein the cytotoxic portion is conjugated to a portion specific for binding to a cell, further wherein said portion for binding to a specific target cell and said cytotoxic portion are internalized upon contact with said specific target cell.

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Previously amended): A compound according to Claim 1 wherein the portion for binding to a specific target cell recognises and selectively binds to a tumour cell antigen.

Claims 4-9 (Cancelled)

Claim 10 (Currently amended): A compound according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1, wherein the cytotoxic portion is at least the catalytically active portion of a constitutively active caspase.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): A compound according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1, wherein the cytotoxic portion is a constitutively active effector caspase.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A compound according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1, wherein the cytotoxic portion is a constitutively active caspase-3, caspase-6 or caspase-7.

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Claim 13 (Currently amended): A compound according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1, wherein the cytotoxic portion is of mammalian origin.

Claim 14 (Currently amended): A compound according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1, wherein the cytotoxic portion is a constitutively active variant of a naturally occurring caspase, the variant being a constitutively active caspase with apoptosis inducing activity.

Claim 15 (Currently amended): A compound according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1, wherein the cytotoxic portion is capable of oligomerisation.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): A compound according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1, wherein said compound is a fusion compound.

Claims 17-20 (Cancelled)

Claim 21 (Currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

Claim 22 (Currently amended): A compound according to ~~any preceding claim~~ Claim 1 for use in medicine.

Claims 23-27 (Cancelled)